

Virginia Latino Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 14, 2003

Members Present:

Ms. Beatriz Amberman
Virginia Beach, VA

Ms. Julia Torres Barden
Richmond, VA

Mr. Ricardo A. Cabellos
Arlington, VA

Mr. Ricardo Castaneda
Harrisonburg, VA

Ms. Dannah Card
Pulaski, VA

Mr. George Crespo
Powhatan, VA

Mr. Pablo Julian Davis
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Ms. Veronica L. Donahue
Amherst, VA

Ms. Cecelia M. Espenosa
Falls Church, VA

Ms. Tanya M. Gonzalez
Richmond, VA

Ms. Mary C. Littreal
Fries, VA

Mr. Esteban Nieto
Dayton, VA

Ms. Gloria E. Ponce Rodriguez
Norfolk, VA

Craig G. Schwartz
Richmond, VA

Mr. Walter Tejada

Arlington, VA

Mr. Andres Tobar
Arlington, VA

Mr. Michel Zajur
Richmond, VA

Ex-Officio Members: Lou Arnatt, Maricel Quintana-Baker (for Chuck Mills), Leni Gonzalez, Sandra Hofer (for Philip Vasquez), Jenifer Nali (for Stephen Harms), Maribel Ramos

Presenter: Linda Ford, Chief Legislative Analyst, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC)

Introduction by Chair Walter Tejada.

- Topic: Purpose of Commission is to advise governor on issues that affect the Latino community.

Presentation by Linda Ford from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) of the Virginia General Assembly on Commission Draft: *Acclimation of Virginia's Foreign-Born Population*.

- Topics: In order to help the Latino community move forward efficiently and effectively, the Commission identified the challenges Latinos face – cultural, socioeconomic, legislative, public services and educational.
- Member C. Schwartz raised a question in reference to figures given in slide 29 of the presentation outline – What percentage of those with higher education credentials are actually working in a job that accurately reflects their education? How many of them are working jobs that they are over-qualified for? Response from L. Ford: Figures for such specifics were not available.
- Co-Chair B. Amberman raised a question in reference to future of the Commission's Draft – What is the next step to be taking by JLARC? Response from L. Ford: The Commission is requesting more time to work on the project and that hopefully a committee will be created to address the issues discussed in the Draft.
- Member P. Davis suggested the following: In order to strengthen the case presented to the legislature, the draft should inform them of the numbers of people besides foreign-born that are also affected. If it were to include dependants who are US born, the figures could reach close to one million.
- Member J. Barden raised the following question: Has the Draft been presented to the General Assembly? Response from L. Ford: No yet, but it is already on website. It will become a house document and it will be disseminated.
- L. Ford will forward a list of the Commission members to Maribel Ramos.
- Member V. Donahue requested clarification on slide 11. Response from non-member L. Ford: Federal money available for translation services, but only 9 states are taking advantage of the budget. It is currently being re-evaluated.

- Member C. Schwartz suggested the following: Obtain input from other states that are currently applying approved programs to help Latinos. Learn from their successes or failures.
- Member G. Rodriguez will provide L. Ford with information of free educational services offered in Virginia.

Co-Chair B. Amberman takes the floor.

- Topic: Discussion of issues, brainstorming and prioritizing
- Each member had five minutes to write down a specific topic of interest/importance/concern that voices the needs of the Latino population statewide. Members issues were voiced as follows:
- Member C. Schwartz: Overcome the language barrier – Improve ESL programs, professional's qualified/certified in other countries but don't speak English therefore they cannot use their education.
- Non-member M. Quintana-Baker: Certification exams in other languages besides English; implement other measures to facilitate advancement as foreigners are learning English.
- Member P. Davis: Evaluation of Quality & Control of Interpretation Services, Statewide
- Member Dannah Card: Creative approaches to ESL training.
- Chair W. Tejada: Virginia must allow Matricula Consular Card as a form of identification.
- Member A. Tobar: Trade/Professional certification exams in other languages where applicable.
- Member A. Tobar: In the competitive atmosphere of obtaining business contracts, make it a fair process for everyone, Latinos included.
- Member J. Barden: Hispanic representation in the government and General Assembly
- Member R. Cabellos: Spanish translation of voter registration and voting rights information.
- Member R. Castaneda: Lack of adequate dental care to immigrants.
- Member C. Espenosa: How No Child Left Behind (NCLB) affects Latino Children; Development of alternatives to SOL testing to LEP students; Access for undocumented students to higher education.
- Member V. Donahue: Migrant education as a state concern vs. local
- Member M. Zajur: Turn around the dropout rate of Hispanics in education; Increase the opportunities for educational scholarships; VA is open to all procurement and jobs; Stop exploitation of the needed Hispanic workforce.
- Member G. Crespo: Crime prevention education
- Member G. Rodriguez: make Hispanics aware of the resources/programs available through HUD, TRIO, ENLASE and Upward Bound; Networking amongst the community, state and federal agencies to make Hispanics aware of opportunities.
- Member D. Card: Accountability of ESL/LEP program.
- Member T. Gonzalez: Health care access and affordability; Title IV compliance awareness. Increase implementation of Latino youth and mentoring programs.
- Non-member J. Nali: Cultural diversity training for agencies that provide basic services.

- Chair W. Tejada: Lack of benefits to Hispanic workers in service industries.
- Member C. Espenosa: Policy rejecting CLEAR Act requirements.
- Member Mary Littreal: Due to lack of identification, Hispanics are not collecting benefits they might be entitled to; getting a valid state identification issued.
- Member J. Barden: Disparity in perception/interpretation on who comprises the Hispanic population.
- Member R. Castaneda: Increased parental involvement in children's education; Increase the number local law enforcement review boards; Request the Governor advocate on behalf of the Latino community at the national level.
- Member W. Tejada: Seek opportunities for importing/exporting with Latin American countries.

Members were asked to vote on the most important issues. Co-Chair B. Amberman and Non-member S. Hofer prioritized issues according to the number of votes received.

Motion by Member M. Zajur to approve last meeting's minutes. Motion second by Member C. Schwartz. Motion was passed by majority.

Chair W. Tejada on scheduling a date and time for the Committees next meeting.

- December 7, 2003 – received 12 votes
- December 5, 2003 – received 7 votes
- The Committee's next meeting will be on Sunday, December 7, 2003 at 12 pm at 2100 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington, VA (tentatively)

Committee members narrowed down list of issues to seven headings. A committee will be formed for each heading. Subsequently, each member present volunteered to serve on one or more of the committees.

1. Identification Issues
 - Matricula Consular ID, access to drivers' licenses
2. Translation/Access for Non-English Proficient Residents
 - State Advisory Board for Translation/Interpretation
 - Voter Registration Translation
3. Education
 - How NCLB affects Latino children
 - Migrant education at the state level vs. local level
 - Break language barrier/ESL approach/professional program to obtain degree
4. Business
 - Trade/Professional testing and certification in another language other than English
 - Seek opportunities to import/export with Latin America
 - Fair access opportunities to obtain minority contracts
5. Health Care
 - Access and affordability
 - Dental care
6. Law Enforcement
 - Policy rejecting CLEAR Act requirements
 - Crime prevention

7. Hispanic Representation

Announcements

- Member J. Barden: Deadline for the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership class of 2004 is November 17, 2003. She encourages anyone interested to apply. \$1,000 tuition fee.
- Member C. Schwartz: John Tyler Community College project for architecture. Anyone interested please pick up a brochure from him.
- Member A. Tobar: Voiced interest in the upcoming campaign for the 2004 Democratic Presidential Candidates.
- Member M. Zajur: Please see invitation below.



*La Cámara de Comercio Hispana de Virginia
y
Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Chesterfield
Tienen el agrado de invitarlo a la
presentación del programa de tutoría
Ayudando a los Niños Latinos a Aprender (ANLA)
para estudiantes Hispanos de nivel primaria
a realizarse en el Restaurante La Siesta
9900 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, VA. 23235
Noviembre 22, 2003
De 2:00-4:00 p.m.*

